

Margaret Jane Cavanaugh Kirkham

1850-1950 Centennial Biography

Margaret Jane Cavanaugh Kirkham, daughter of William and Margaret Quinn Cavanaugh, was born in Inverkeithing, Fifeshire, Scotland, May 1, 1888. Her parents were devoted Latter-day Saints and brought their family, from Ireland where they were converted, to Salt Lake City in 1903, making their home in the Twentieth Ward. Later they moved to San Francisco and then to Lehi.

She served in the Alpine Stake Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association Board and has been active in ward choirs. In the Second Ward Relief Society, she acted first as teacher, as counselor in the Presidency and finally as president. For nearly twenty-five years, she was a member of the Old Folks Committee, serving some time as chairwoman, and has been a member of the Athenian Club for twenty-five years.

She was blessed with a rare singing voice and freely gave her songs at Church, weddings, and funerals. During the terrible "flu" epidemic of 1915, she sang almost daily, sometimes several times a day at graveside services for victims of that dreaded disease.

At Lehi, she first met Thomas F. Kirkham and they were married in the Salt Lake Temple by John R. Winder, November 2, 1909. She is the mother of two daughters Phyllis Margaret and Bonnie Jean.

Phyllis Margaret, a graduate of Utah State Agricultural College is living at Brigham City and is the mother of three children: Kathleen K., Margaret K., and Thomas Evan. Her husband is Ezra Benson Owen, grandson of Ezra T. Benson, member of the original twelve apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At this writing, Bonnie Jean is a junior student at the Brigham Young University.